

Application No. 10/802,984

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A piston pin, comprising:

~~a tubular body having a fully coated cylindrical exterior margin comprising a chromium-nitride coating, the exterior margin being bearinglessly shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of a connecting rod, the inside margin of the pin bore having a surface formed of a material that is common with a material forming the connecting rod, a mating of the coated cylindrical exterior margin of the tubular body with the inside margin of the pin bore being in a shiftable surface to surface engagement.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The piston pin of claim [[2]]1, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.

4. (Currently amended) The piston pin of claim [[2]]1, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

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5. (Original) The piston pin of claim 4, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

6. (Currently amended) The piston pin of claim [[2]]1, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.

7. (Original) The piston pin of claim 6, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.

8. (Currently Amended) A piston pin[[,]] and a connecting rod combination comprising:
[[the]] a piston pin exterior margin having a tubular body, the tubular body having a full coating being comprised of chromium-nitride coated cylindrical exterior margin, the exterior margin being bearinglessly shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of the connecting rod; and
the connecting rod being formed of a certain material, the inside margin of the pin bore having a surface formed of the certain material forming the connecting rod, a mating of the pin bore with the piston pin being a shiftable surface to surface engagement.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[9]]8, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.

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11. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[9]]8, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

12. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 11, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

13. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[9]]8, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.

14. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 13, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a piston pin, comprising:
forming a tubular piston pin body having an cylindrical exterior margin;
fully coating the cylindrical exterior margin with a selected chromium-nitride material;
forming the surface margin of a connecting rod pin bore of a certain material, including
the surface of a pin bore the certain being common with a material employed in
forming the connecting rod;
and bearinglessly mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin surface
of the pin bore in a shiftable inside surface to surface engagement.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16,]]15 including depositing the chromium-nitride coating by physical vapor deposition.

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18. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16]]15 including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16]]15, including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of substantially 5 microns.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16,]]15 including buffing the chromium-nitride coating after deposition prior to mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin of the pin.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20, including buffing the chromium-nitride coating in a centerless buffing operation.